

Comments on the proposed conservation of usage of the names *Mystacina* Gray, 1843, *Chalinobus* Peters, 1866, *M. tuberculata* Gray, 1843 and *C. tuberculatus* (J.R. Forster, 1844) (Mammalia, Chiroptera)
(Case 3095; see BZN 56: 250–254)

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I support Spencer & Lee's application for the conservation of name usage for the New Zealand bats *Mystacina tuberculata* Gray, 1843 and *Chalinobus tuberculatus* (J.R. Forster, 1844); their argument is compelling. These names have been universally accepted for a century or more (in addition to references cited in the application see Miller (1907), Pierson et al. (1986), Koopman (1994), Hand et al. (1998) and Kennedy et al. (1999)). The name *M. velutina* Hutton, 1872 has been used instead of *M. tuberculata* only by Thomas (1905; as *Mystacops velutinus*) and by Mayer et al. (1999), in both cases on the mistaken grounds described in the application. Because New Zealand has only two known extant bat species they are commonly known by their vernacular and generic names, and the similarity of their specific names has not in fact caused confusion. The stable usage of *Mystacina tuberculata* should continue.

Additional references

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- Koopman, K.F. 1994. Chiroptera: Systematics. *Handbook of Zoology*, vol. 8, pt. 60.
- Miller, G.S. 1907. The families and genera of bats. *Bulletin of the United States National Museum*, no. 57. 282 pp.
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(2) Kerry-Jayne Wilson

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I lecture in vertebrate ecology at Lincoln University and have had three graduate students do theses on New Zealand bats. I have frequent contact with government agencies and, by means of broadcasts and written articles, with the lay public on matters concerning the ecology and conservation of New Zealand's native biota, including the bat species. I know of nobody who finds the existing scientific names of the bats confusing, and I urge their retention.

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I would like to go on record as supporting the well-founded arguments and proposals of Spencer & Lee. There is no doubt as to what taxa the names *Mystacina*